APPENDIX A: NEW CLAIMS 39-44

39. (New) A method of prioritizing encoded video data streams, the method comprising:

assigning priorities to video object layers associated with the video data streams;

adding priority data for each video object layer to the video data streams; and

transmitting the video object layers and priority data to a decoder according to the assigned priority of each video object layer.

40. (New) The method of prioritizing an encoded a video data stream of claim 39, wherein the priority data identifies which video object layer may be discarded in the event of limited memory or processor resources.

41. (New) The method prioritizing encoded video data streams of claim 39, wherein the priority data identifies which video object layer may be discarded in the event of channel errors.

42. (New) The method prioritizing encoded video data streams of claim 39, wherein the indication of the priority of the video object layer is optional.

43. (New) The method of prioritizing encoded video data streams of claim 39, wherein information related to video object layers having a high priority is transmitted before information related to video object layers having a low priority.

44. (New) A method of decoding encoded bitstreams of claim 39, wherein the priority data identifies which vide object layer to discard in the event of limited memory or processor resources.